



Consultation, IA <consultation@bia.gov>

Fwd: Recognition Process

1 message

Appel, Elizabeth <elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>

Thu, Sep 26, 2013 at 2:40 PM

To: IA Consultation <consultation@bia.gov>

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From: **Mary Meyer** <timpanogostribe@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 26, 2013 at 4:31 PM

Subject: Recognition Process

To: "elizabeth.appel@bia.gov" <elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>

Dear Ms. Appel,

As a petitioner for recognition we are pleased that some changes are forthcoming. We first contacted the Interior Department through Mr. Lee Fleming in 1999. Our tribe, The Timpanogos, have an Executive Order, a Congressional Act, Congressional authorization for Treaty Negotiations, and a Treaty. Through the course of the years we have filed several packets of documented information, but were informed that none of them were in the proper format and must be redone. We reformatted our documents and our verified petition complete with lineage to the 1700's, has been filed and was hand delivered to Mr. Lee Fleming in Washington D.C. along with a letter requesting "Conformation" of our recognized status as our failure to be recognized was caused by "administrative error". We are at present awaiting a response.

The concerns we have with the process are as follows:

1. The guidelines at present are hard for uneducated people, (in the way the government handles things), to follow.

The process should be more about the facts and less about the way the papers are numbered or organized.

2. Once a tribe of Indians has prior recognition as the guidelines state, there should be an expedited process for that tribe. Providing lineage to tie to the tribe asserted should be sufficient, how a tribe has functioned or existed

should not be an issue.

Example: If I have the title to a car it is then my car. If I drive it, park it, paint it, or call it a horse. The fact remains. It is still my car. I hold the title. My identity and title are all the proof I need.

If an Indian Tribe has a, Treaty, Executive Order, or Congressional Act, in essence, they hold the title. They should then only need prove they are who they say they are through lineage.

3. The 10 year blocks as required under guideline A are an avenue for the government to escape the obligations and laws they, themselves, are under. Once an Executive Order is signed it is law. Once a Congressional Act is signed it is law. Once a Treaty is written and acted upon it is law. These laws need upheld or the whole system of laws in this country are at risk. Under the present guidelines if the State or outside citizens haven't documented your existence every 10 years then you risk the chance of being denied recognition. The States or their citizens should not be able to have any say when it comes to pre-existing law, or the promised protections of tribes and their rights, by this United States government. No one should be able to CHANGE existing law. Our tribe suffered near annihilation at the hands of a group of people that the United States, themselves, called treasonous, see Presidential Proclamation, April 6, 1858, of President James Buchanan. Our state is still monopolized by this same organization. They should have NO say about our existence. If left to them we will remain in a state of non-existence as indigenous people of this continent. From 1999 to the present we have sent letters to the governor of Utah by certified mail. To date NONE of them have been answered. No response at all. It is obvious they will not be of much assistance.

Again, we state, the recognition process needs to take into account that states have been one of Indian tribes worst adversaries. To allow them any say in the recognition process appears to be an avenue or excuse to ignore the very promises this United States Government made to the indigenous people of this continent.

The indigenous people of this continent have suffered, mass annihilation, discrimination, loss of family and culture since the formation of the United States. To recognize the remnants of a once vast proud people should not be such a great task. When a law exists, by Executive Order, Congressional Act, Treaty, or otherwise, it should be upheld. There should be no red tape where

existing law is concerned. In contrast, the United States should do all it can to protect and preserve its own integrity by following the very laws it established as the Constitution of this United States holds these laws to be Supreme.

Sincerely,

Mary Meyer
Chief Executive
Timpanogos Tribe

Hard copy mailed to Elizabeth Appel, Lee Fleming, President Obama

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